

Shipping.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.
The Amr. Ship
"SILVER,"
Captain FARQUHARSON, will have
quick despatch for the above
Port.
For Freight, apply to
ROUSELL & Co.
Hongkong, January 20, 1869.

Notices to Consignees.

"GUINEVERE" FROM LONDON.
THE following packages have been landed
and are now stored in the Godowns
of the Undersigned at the risk and expense
of the Consignees.
TMB (in 400) 1/108-108 Packages.
H F
—JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, March 18, 1869.

THE following cases have been landed
and are now stored in the Godowns
of the Undersigned at the risk and expense
of the Consignees, who are requested to take
immediate delivery.
Ex "Hobbs," 31st October, 1868.
VC 827 1 case Arms.
Ex "Cambridge," 2d February, 1869.
GFC 16385 1 case Chemicals.
Ex "Donat," 18th March, 1869.
FFO 436 1 case Stationery.
C. BERTRAND,
Principal Agent.
Hongkong, March 17, 1869.

CONSIGNMENT of Cargo per Company's
Steamship "Donat," are requested
to send in their Bills of Lading, for
counter-signature, and to take delivery of
their Goods before the 11th Instant, or
they will be landed and stored at their risk
and expense.

C. BERTRAND,
Principal Agent.
Hongkong, March 8, 1869.

BARQUE "BENEFICENT" FROM
NEW YORK.
CONSIGNMENT of Cargo by the above-
named vessel are requested to send in
their Bills of Lading to the Undersigned for
counter-signature, and to take immediate
delivery of their Goods.
Cargo impeding the discharge of the
Vessel will be landed and stored at Con-
signees' risk and expense.
SMITH, ARCHER & Co.
Hongkong, March 1, 1869.

"ZIBA" FROM LONDON.
CONSIGNMENT of Cargo by the above-
named vessel are requested to send in
their Bills of Lading to the Undersigned for
counter-signature, and to take immediate
delivery of their Goods. Cargo impeding the
discharge of the vessel will be landed and
stored at Consignees' risk and expense.
No Claims for Damaged Goods or short
delivery of parts of packages or cases will
be allowed after the Cargo has left the
Vessel's side.
DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, March 8, 1869.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
THE following cases are now stored in
the P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Godown at
the expense and risk of the Consignees who
are requested to take immediate delivery.
Ex "China," 30th January, 1869.
S. H. 1 case Catalogues.
Ex "London," 2nd January, 1869.
Messrs Labhart & Co. 1 case Leather Ware.
Co. 1 case.
Messrs Loney & Co. 1 case Books & Staty
Co. 1 case.
Ex "Eman," 23rd October, 1868.
Messrs Labhart & Co. 1 case Manuf. Goods.
Co. 1 case.
Ex "Orion," 24th August, 1868.
Messrs Labhart & Co. 2 cases Books and Ma-
nuf. Goods.
Co. 1 case.
W. MACAULAY,
Superintendent.
Hongkong, February 25, 1869.

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W. MACAULAY,
Superintendent.
Hongkong, February 25, 1869.

Notices of Firms.

THE interest and responsibility of Mr.
GEORGE WILHELM SCHWEMM and
Mr. ROBERT HEINRICH in our firm, ceased
on the 31st December 1867, and 31st Dec-
ember 1868 respectively.
Mr. FERDINAND NISSEN and Mr. HEIN-
RICH HOFFMANN have this day been admitted
partners in our firm at Hongkong and in
China, which now consists of Mr. GEORGE
THEODOR SIEMSEN, Mr. WOLDEMAR NIS-
SEN, Mr. ADOLPH JOOST, Mr. FERDINAND
NISSEN and Mr. HEINRICH HOFFMANN.
SIEMSEN & Co.
Hongkong, January 1, 1869. 2apr

NOTICE.
THE interest and responsibility of Mr.
FREDERICK PEDDER in our firm
ceases from this date.
H. D. BROWN & Co.
Amoy, December 31, 1868. apr2

MR. FRANCIS CHOMLEY is a Partner in
our firm, which from this date will be
conducted under the name of BROWN
& Co.
H. D. BROWN & Co.
Amoy, January 1, 1869. apr2

NOTICE.
MR. D. O. CLARK retires from our firm,
and Mr. J. MURRAY FORBES and
Mr. E. D. BARBOUR are admitted Partners
from this date.
RUSSELL & Co.
China, January 1, 1869. July2

For Sale.

BIELEFELD & ZACHARIAE.
HAVE received by the last mail the
Newest Style of
PIPE
now in use by
ALL
men of fashion, and as only a few have
come into their
HANDS
early orders for the same are solicited.

A well selected stock of Smokers' Articles,
such as Carved Cigarholders, Briar-root
Pipes, Havana Cigars (choice brands), No. 2
and 3 Manila Cigars and Cheroots of this
finest quality, in boxes of 200 and 500 each;
Smoking Tobacco (choice brands); Ci-
garette Paper, Tobacco Pouches, Flint,
&c., &c., &c.
Also a fresh supply of Russian Cigarettes.
HONGKONG,
Queen's Road, 88 & 90.
SHANGHAI,
Canton Road, 6.
Hongkong, February 15, 1869.

PER MAIL STEAMER.
GRUYERE CHEESE, of first quality.
G. DUBOST & Co.
Hongkong, March 12, 1869. apr12

PER ZIBA.
50 cases Perrier CHAMPAGNE,
50 cases "Plagniole" SALAD OIL.
G. DUBOST & Co.
Hongkong, March 12, 1869. apr12

FOR THE RACES.
SAYLE & Co.,
VICTORIA EXCHANGE,
HONG KONG.
HAVE RECEIVED EX MAIL STEAMER.

A large assortment of MILLINERY,
BONNETS, and HATS, of the
latest fashions.

A Choice assortment of SILK, MUS-
LIN, and GRENADINE, for Evening
Wear.

A fine assortment of new French FLOW-
ERS, HEAD-DRESSES and FEATHERS.

A large assortment of new TRIM-
MINGS and FRINGES in all colors.

Ladies' and Gentlemen's Kid GLOVES,
in white and colors, all sizes.

Gentlemen's Drab Shell and Felt HATS

Blue and Green GOSSAMERS, &c.

(BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT,
20, Pootchow Road, Shanghai.
Hongkong, February 3, 1869.

Per "Main Steamer" and late Arrivals.
MISS ROSE

HAS received a choice assortment of
French GLASSES, black and colored,
BARBETTES and FANCY DRESSES, black
and colored pieces VELVETS and SATINS
in the newest shades.

Plain and Fancy RIBBONS, VIL-
VETS, SASH RIBBONS, and DRESS
TRIMMINGS in great variety. Real
CLONIE and VALENCIENNES LA'ES.
Ladies' and Children's trimmed and un-
trimmed HATS in all the fashionable
shapes.

Ladies' BONNETS latest styles, Plain
and Fancy SUNSHADES, French FANS,
&c.

Ladies' and Gentlemen's French Kid
GLOVES and BOOTS.
Ladies' White Satin and Kid BOOTS.
A large assortment of French and Eng-
lish HOSIERY, Gentlemen's Black and
Drab Shell HATS, SHIRTS, COLLARS,
TIES, &c., &c.

Henrie's PERFUMERY,
WELLINGTON STREET,
Opposite the Catholic Chapel.
Hongkong, February 10, 1869.

For Sale.

S. W. BAKER & Co.,
DESIRE to invite inspection of their New
ST. OK for the Season, received per
late arrivals, including—
Ladies' Hats, Bonnets, Opera Cloaks,
Dresses in plain and fancy Silks, Poplin-
ettes, Reys, and new Textures, French
Robes, ready made, French Sashes, Belts,
Jackets and Mantles, new shape Japanese
white and scarlet Corsets, Lace Falls, Lace
and other Trimmings, Ribbons, and Rib-
bon Velvets in all colors. Hosiery, Kid,
Cashmere, and Bronze Boots, white Satin
Boots and Kid Gloves. A large assortment
of Woollen Embroidery Works, as Cushion
Patterns, Smoking Caps, Muslin Sets, &c.

Sangster's Umbrellas, Christy's new shape
Felt and Shell Hats, a choice lot of Neck
Scarves, Ties, Wrappers, Collars, Socks,
Fancy Towels and Coatings, Braces, &c.

Brussels Carpets, Velvet, Pile Carpets
and Rugs, All Wool Damasks, Lace Cur-
tains, Table Covers in great variety, Da-
mask Table Cloths in all sizes, Table Nap-
kins, D'Oyleys, Blankets, Counterpanes,
Sheetings, Flannels, Wool Mats, Turkish
and other Towels, &c.

Children's Trimmed Hats, Boots, Peram-
bulators, Picture Books, Toys, &c.
Dress, Tricots, and Travelling Bags
fitted, for Ladies and Gentlemen, Playing
Cards, and a large assortment of Stationery
and Perfumery Goods.

S. W. BAKER & Co.
Hongkong, December 22, 1868.

New Advertisements.

F. A. WHEELER,
HAIR CUTTER & HAIR DRESSER,
26, Queen's Road,
(Opposite LANE & CRAWFORD'S.)
Hongkong, March 19, 1869. 11

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY, IN LIQUIDATION.
NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

A Second DIVIDEND of \$125 per share
will be payable at the Hongkong &
SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, on and
after the 22nd Instant.
Shareholders are requested to apply at
the office of the Undersigned, No. 39,
Queen's Road, for Warrants.
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
Liquidators.
Hongkong, March 19, 1869. mar26

FOR FREIGHT OR CHARTER.
The British barque
"NAVARINO,"
Capt. G. PANDON, 408 Tons
register, carrying capacity 10,000
piculs.

For Particulars, apply to
LANDSTEIN & Co.
Hongkong, March 19, 1869. 11

FOR LONDON (direct).
The fine A 1 Russian barque
"AMUR,"
(10 years from 1862 English
Lloyds), Capt. GYLLSTEN, will
have quick despatch as above, taking
general cargo.

For Freight, apply to
JOHN BURD & Co.
Hongkong, March 19, 1869.

PUBLIC AUCTION.
THE Undersigned has received in-
structions from the Mortgagee to
sell by Public Auction, on
WEDNESDAY,
the 31st day of March, 1869, at Noon,
on the Premises, under the power of sale
contained in the deed of Mortgage,
Inland Lot No. 512, with the 4 Chi-
nese Houses thereon, situate in First
Street near the Sympson Market.

Also, immediately after, will be sold
on the premises—
Remaining portion of Inland Lot No.
701, with the 7 Chinese Houses thereon,
situate in Pound Lane, Taijingshan.

Section 8 of Inland Lot No. 600, with
the 2 Chinese Houses thereon, situate in
Pound Lane, Taijingshan.

Section 1 of Inland Lot No. 596, with
the 2 Chinese Houses thereon, situate in
Market Street, Taijingshan.

Inland Lot No. 243 F, with the 2
Chinese Houses thereon, situate in East
Street, Taijingshan, immediately ad-
joining the Market.

For further particulars, apply to the
Auctioneer, or to Mr. EDMUND SHARP,
Solicitor.

TERMS OF SALE.—One-half of the
purchase money to be paid on the fall of
the hammer, and the balance on com-
pletion of the deed of transfer, the expenses
of which to be paid by the purchaser.

The property to be at the risk of the
purchaser from the fall of the hammer.
J. M. ARMSTRONG,
Auctioneer.
Hongkong, March 19, 1869. mar31

PUBLIC AUCTION.
THE Undersigned has received in-
structions from the Mortgagee to
sell by Public Auction, on
FRIDAY,
the 2nd day of April, 1869, at 1 past 4
p.m., on the Premises, under the power
of sale contained in the deed of Mort-
gage—
Inland Lot No. 335, with the Chinese
House thereon, situate and being No.
36, Jardine's Bazaar, East Point.

For further particulars, apply to the
Auctioneer, or to Mr. EDMUND SHARP,
Solicitor.

TERMS OF SALE.—One-half of purchase
money to be paid on fall of the ham-
mer, and the balance on completion of the
deed of transfer, the expenses of which
to be paid by the purchaser.

Property to be at the risk of the
purchaser from the fall of the hammer.
J. M. ARMSTRONG,
Auctioneer.
Hongkong, March 19, 1869. apr2

New Advertisements.

PUBLIC AUCTION.
BOWRA & Co. will sell by
Public Auction, on
MONDAY,
the 22nd March, 1869, at 12
Noon, at their Front Store,
Praya,—
A Portion of their remaining
STOCK-IN-TRADE, consisting of:

Signal and Masthead Lan-
terns in Copper and best Tin
Frames, Hanging Lamps, Oil-
man's Stores in variety, Iron
Blocks, and Sheaves, Purchase
Blocks, and Wooden Blocks of
all sizes, Plate and Colored Glass,
Patent India Rubber Packing,
Lamp Shades, Bunting, Deck and
House Scrubbing Brushes, Pa-
tent Varnish, Filters, Marline and
Houseline, Carpenter's Tools,
Garden Tools, Platform Scales,
Nails of all sizes, Starch, Blue,
Loglines, Lead Lines, Signal Hal-
yards, Table Brushes, Banister
Brushes, Steelyards, Axes, Mops,
Copper Measures, Henry's Can-
vas, Twine, Canvas and India
Rubber Hose.

And a variety of other Articles.
TERMS OF SALE.—Cash before
delivery in Mexican Dollars
weighed at 7.17. All lots with
all faults and errors of descrip-
tion at Purchasers' risk upon
fall of the hammer.
Hongkong, March 19, 1869.

UNION DOCK COMPANY OF HONG-
KONG & WHAMPOA, LIMITED.

NOTICE.
THE Company's OFFICES are this day
REMOVED to the Ground Floor of
Messrs ROBERT S. WALKER & Co.'s House
at the corner of Ice House Street.
Hongkong, March 19, 1869. ap19

THE CHINA MAIL

Work is now PUBLISHED and READY FOR CIRCULATION. JOHN B. MORRIS, Messrs Bowra & Co., Queen's Road, January 13, 1869.

of every description except the "China Mail" Office, neatness, punctuality, and charges, by CHARLES A. SAINT.

50 CENTS. The Proposed Mails, the Mail Steamer Packets of the Year 1869, as per Majesty's Postmaster, the China Mail Office, December 26, 1868.

NOTICE. ES of Vol. 2 of Notes on China and Japan, at the China Mail Office, of the First Vol. (reprint) day.

particularly requested that any relating to the general paper be addressed to the no case to individuals by day and inconvenience in business will thereby be

RESPONDENTS. open to all who wish to on legitimate grounds, but reserves responsibility for the respondents.

ons addressed to this paper by the name of the day for publication, but as 1000.

THE CHINA MAIL.

DAY, MARCH 19, 1869.

327 AND IN 1869.

revel, in treating of pre- nia, of the schemes and residents, and the post- ards foreigners by the ent, to look back upon are the actual progress we complain of the slow in this country, where certainly was, "a life- difference between the not is sufficiently strik- each year is increasing nce character of any, idden, startling, and the taking the place of nt and slow-moving, both amusing and valua- ned from an occasional or records of foreign life

us the first and suc- of the Canton Register 8th November 1827, o years ago. Forty-two ng period in the history is with China. Dating when the narrow limits

were the "China" of adventure, it has wit- the attack, bombard- occupation of that city, on, capture, and death ide) of its Viceroy, but important which are too eed recapitulation. It e to conceive that the of the present day, the life and freedom from ncial gunboats under and in fact the Can- allen as she is from the head quarters of the self-same city, ruled of men, and having still walls many who, were nal before us was pub- and indignation by we note the events he 1st and 15th of first number being 8

Printed in large type ch news in the first ing address upon "the register of the Com- information of China, undertaken, aided by the ublic spirit of a gentle- led the projects with some words about statement that certain of the factories were owing to the firm er in which the matter e committee" and a by drawing from a cher of the notorious y, with a price current e contents of the issue, the previous fortnight ls, and 2 departures,

THE "COOLIE TRADE" IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

In the Central Police Court at Brisbane, on Jan. 12, a man named Ross Lewin, was charged with having, criminally, assaulted a woman, a native of Tanna, on board of the ship *Spunkie*, while upon the high seas. According to the statement made by the prosecution, prisoner was supercargo of the *Spunkie*, which, in the month of April last, was at the island of Tanna. There one of the chiefs named Ki Ki came on board the vessel, and Lewin, being anxious to make up his complement of labourers, Ki Ki was detained. Ki Ki wished to remain at his island, and told Lewin that if he would let him go he would send him another man in his stead. Lewin agreed to this, and Ki Ki and Lewin went to the beach in a boat, when Ki Ki tried to induce his brother to take his place. In this he failed, and finding Lewin would not release him without a substitute, offered him his daughter Mary. She was brought down to the beach, when Lewin waded from the boat, leading Ki Ki by the hand; Lewin held Ki Ki with one hand until he got hold of Mary, when he let Ki Ki go, and took the girl on board the vessel and committed the alleged offence subsequently.

The Magistrate held the charge to be not sufficiently borne out, as it was not shown that the woman was not a consenting party, and the prisoner was discharged, but it is clear that, if innocent of the particular offence alleged, he is nevertheless guilty of an arduous piece of kidnapping as was ever perpetrated by the most active and unscrupulous "pig-dealer" of Macao. He was a British subject, and the ship was under the British flag when the brutal act was done. There is therefore to be a parliamentary enquiry into the matter, and by the subjoined extract from one of the most powerful and influential journals in Australia, it will be seen that it will not escape the attention of the public generally.

(Sydney Morning Herald, Jan. 11.) [Lewin has written a letter in reply to persons whom he calls his "detectors," in the course of which he explains that he was originally employed by Captain Towns, a large cotton planter, owner in Queensland called Towns, to make labour contracts with natives of the Polynesian group, and these contracts, he says, were carried out to the satisfaction of all parties. Our contemporary then proceeds—

In course of time, Captain Lewin concluded that he might do for others what he had done for Captain Towns. The desire for South Sea Island labour having sprung up in the colony, it occurred to him to profit by it. He therefore left Towns, and, after the *King Oscar*, the *Martha Ellen*, the *Spunkie*, and the *Upham* at different times, and threw himself energetically into a trade for which his past experience had so peculiarly fitted him. With respect to the case of the girl "kidnapped" on board the *Spunkie*, he explains the use of any violence, and testifies to the presence of Parliamentary inquiry. He represents himself further as the possessor of a considerable estate on Tanna, and is hoping to settle with his family, which he could not venture upon doing until he had got rid of the natives; and, in conclusion, he urges upon the Government to send an accredited agent on the return voyage he is about to make, to see what sort of reception awaits him, and to judge what sort of foundation exists for the reports put about concerning this traffic in coloured men.

Now, assuming this statement to be in perfect accordance with facts, what does it prove? In clearing his own character Captain Lewin by no means clears the system to which the Towns example has given rise. Our objection to that remains precisely what it was. If every captain engaged in the traffic in Polynesian labourers as at present legalised were able to hoist as stainless a flag as the captain of the *Daphne*, our opinion of it would not be changed. A careful study of the Polynesian Labourers Act, and a knowledge of human nature, is quite sufficient to enable us to conclude, from the very nature of things, and without a title of evidence, that, although the traffic might be carried out at first with a measure of fairness, and masters in the main be to the people so acquired, the entire transaction must ultimately degenerate into slavery.

If Captain Towns and Lewin have exercised the power acquired over the natives of Tanna mercifully, we cannot conceal from ourselves that others may not choose to be bound by their example. A ship captain, possessed of the licence of the Queensland Parliament, is free to visit what islands he pleases, it is open to him to procure his cargo of men in what way he pleases; the formality of contract is, of course, only applicable in semi-civilized groups, where the nature of a legal instrument might be understood, and where any resident authorities might be at hand to attest it. If he is a man of unjust and brutal disposition there will be no obstacle to his filling his ship with involuntary labourers, except the resistance they may make. These poor fellows are soon covered into passiveness, and when the vessel arrives at Queensland, there being no interpreter to inquire into the validity of the contracts made out by the captain and his officers, the Commissioner passes the batch, and their future masters conduct them away. Should any difficulty be apprehended, as in the case of the *Julia*, loaded with natives picked up here and there, they are run into some part of the Queensland coast and delivered to their masters before the Commissioner can arrive.

We see nothing in the system now legalised to prevent the commission of frightful barbarities. It is perfectly competent for marauding skippers to engage in kidnapping expeditions without any license, and to transfer their human booty to captains sailing under the Queensland permit, with contracts duly forged. And under such circumstances we should like to know how these men are to be returned to their islands? The captives will certainly be troubled with humane considerations of this nature, and when the time for return comes round, the course which gives least trouble to the captain will be taken.

If Polynesian labourers are to be brought to Queensland it must be under quite a different system. The Islands must be specified from which they are to be brought, with 1 passenger inwards and 4 outwards. The price of the number was 60 cents, or \$13 per annum. But though we can easily find quaint and amusing paragraphs, we turn, in connection with our present subject, rather to those illustrative of our then position in China and to the transitions of edicts, &c., affecting foreign trade. In the 4th number we come across a sketch of Macao, in which "a tame submission to the impositions of the Chinese," "the crafty schemes and petty jealousies of its occupants" are stated to be the cause which reduced it to its then "insignificant and dependant state." We had not however much to boast of as regarded independence. Constant records are given of our dependant state in the assault and robbery of Englishmen into a short distance from their homes. But the "edicts" are still stronger evidence of the light in which foreigners are regarded. Thus, on the 8th March 1826, some shopmen had been detected in the heinous crime of dealing directly with foreigners. Following this is the statement that an English Baronet who was walking round the walls was stripped "almost or entirely naked," and in that state returned to the care of his spirited countrymen. The cream of the joke is the congratulation offered to him and other foreigners grievously assaulted that "they got off so well." Then we find foreigners prohibited from sending letters except through compradores "provided with sealed bags." (We may note in passing that the receipt of news from England dated 10th June is announced on the 14th December.) On the 17th May, we read the following choice extract from an edict by Le, the then Viceroy, to the American nation's merchants. Talapa Tun, Losse (Russell), Lalamun, Luykelhoon Alekun (Olyphant), and Yinglee—to some of which names in disguise emphatic queries are necessary. It relates to direct trade with the native shopmen, and "Le" says—

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND SAINT PATRICK'S DINNER.

To the Editor of the "China Mail." HONGKONG, March 19, 1869.

Sir,—Among the oracular post-prandial utterances of Wednesday evening, the Chamber of Commerce and the British merchant were so soundly rated that it is impossible to refrain from a few comments on the subject.

When a military gentleman playfully alluded to the "debris of the Chamber of Commerce," and lamented that a large and expensive naval and military force should be sent out here to aid and protect that individual of whom he had heard so much as the "British Merchant," but who, if not altogether a myth, certainly did not seem to do much—the sarcasm was of course very severe, though perhaps it did not matter much.

But when H. E. Sir Richard MacDonnell accused the Chamber of Commerce and the merchants of Hongkong, of sloth, and of an almost criminal negligence of their own interests, and urged them to make their voices more loudly heard, and their legitimate influence more distinctly felt, and when he told them that if they did not wake from this Lotus-eaters' dream within two months, they might sleep on for ever: if they would not listen to their "knight of industry."

"Salvaggio well yclep'd," "A rough unpolished warrior, robust and bold," they might stay in their Castle of Indolence, and slumber in its destruction be."

By cruel hands left hurried to and fro, Gaunt Beggary, and Scorn, with many hell-founds me!"

When H. E. the Governor thus assumed the prophetic strain, I saw that the matter was becoming serious, and looking back upon the past, asking myself what hope there could be for the future.

I remembered His Excellency's reply to the Chamber of Commerce, when an opinion had been expressed on the Gambling Ordinance; and reflecting on the highly courteous tone of his despatch, I wondered how it was that the Chamber had not felt encouraged to address His Excellency on other matters of general interest.

There was certainly a difference of opinion on that occasion. In a Crown Colony the Governor wishes the Chamber of Commerce and the people to "strengthen their hands," not to hold different opinions, but the latter course he persisted in, so much the worse for the people and the Chamber of Commerce.

I remembered the action taken by the Chamber of Commerce and the whole people of this place in reference to the Military Contribution, and asked myself if the result of the representations then made had been at all satisfactory.

I wondered whether it is likely that any amount of talking or writing on the part of the merchants in this place, or the open ports of China will ever induce the British Minister at Peking, and the Comenla at the ports to see the existing treaty with China carried out in all its integrity; and with much regret, and no little shame, I confess that my reflections led to conclusions neither gratifying to my self-esteem as a British merchant, nor encouraging as to any hopes which I may have cherished in reference to the approaching revision of the treaty.

Of course Sir Richard MacDonnell wishes his "hands strengthened," and when the Chamber of Commerce considers that he is doing good work, I have no doubt that they will do all in their power to aid him; but when there happens to be a want of accord between His Excellency and the Chamber, can the latter be reasonably blamed by him for silence when all their experience goes to show how little is likely to be obtained by remonstrance.

To be opposed to indolence; so in the words of a late diplomatist in reference to Sir MacDonnell Stephenson, who wished to introduce railways into China—when the force of opposition is raised—"choke him off."

There is nothing more desirable than that the Chamber of Commerce should rouse from their lethargy and exercise that influence which energy of their part would command; but this change should come rather from the desire to do what is right in spite of all discouragement, than in answer to an appeal from one who has treated their opinions with so great indifference.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, POOR RICHARD.

THE NORTH.

The *United Service* steamer, arrived this afternoon, brings news from Japan to the 6th instant, and from Shanghai to the 12th. A fracas has occurred at Osaka between foreigners and Japanese, but unattended with serious personal consequences to the foreigner.

Mr Alfred Phelps, of Ohio, U.S., died at Kobe on the 3rd of April. He was for some time agent there for the P. M. S. S. Co. The body is to be forwarded to his friends in the States for interment.

From Shanghai we learn that a piratical attack was made on the Customs cruiser *Kwa Shing*, and that it was successfully beaten off by the Armstrongs on board.

(N. C. Daily News.)

The British barque *Springa*, Captain Brown, from Newcastle, N.E.W. to Shanghai, had with her, was lost on Nov. 20. The *Springa* encountered a severe typhoon in the vicinity of the Marshall Group, was dismasted and drifted ashore on one of the small islands of the Group, becoming a wreck. The Captain and crew were taken off after being on the island two days, by the *Water Lily*, which called there for purposes of trade, and taken to the Island of Ascension. The Captain came on here in the *Water Lily*, which arrived Sunday.

Among the arrivals by the French mail, we notice the names of Dr. de Quevedo, the new Spanish Minister at Peking, and of M. Dabry, who will replace M. Breuier de Montmorant during his temporary absence in Europe.

At Berlin, on Monday, at a chapter of the Knights of the Order of the Black Eagle, the Prince of Wales received the chain of the order which has formerly been worn by the Prince Consort.

we must have unquestionable evidence of their willingness to come, and of their knowledge of the nature of the contract made, and where it is possible, the islanders should migrate in batches, bringing their Christian teacher with them. Nothing short of such an arrangement as this should satisfy those who are concerned in the question.

LOCAL.

We learn that the French barque *Ocean* (228 tons) was sold at public auction to-day by the Government Auctioneer, at the instance of the Marshal of the Vice-Admiralty Court. She was purchased by Mr Thomas Howard for \$10,500.

In justice to Mr Beart, we have to explain that in our paragraph last night about St. Patrick's dinner, when referring to the decoration of the room, we did not mean that Mr B. actually painted the transparency. The painting, we are informed, was done by Mr Holland, but who could be expected to learn such a fact as that "upon instant, Hal!"

An incident stated by our shipping reporter yesterday accidentally escaped insertion in our last. The barque *Marion* reached this port on the 17th. She was on her way from Yokohama to Manila, when on Friday last, her Captain shot himself, being at the time delirious from typhus fever. The day before, the carpenter jumped overboard. The first mate being incapable of duty from the same cause, the second mate took charge of the vessel, and brought her into Hongkong, where she was at once placed in quarantine, nearly the whole suffering from typhus fever. What the name of the Captain was, we do not know. In our list of arrivals the name was printed as "Death," as given in the form of an arrival by our marine reporter, who meant simply to record an event, and not to preserve a name. It is hardly, however, a mistake, for the King of Terrors had apparent command over the ship, and will yet, it is said, remove some more of her crew.

SUPREME COURT. CRIMINAL SESSIONS. (Before the Hon. the Chief Justice.) March 19th, 1869.

The Chief Justice summed up in the "Miller" case this morning. Wong Atai, the prisoner, was placed in the dock at ten o'clock.

Yesterday evening, the shroff called as a witness stated that Mrs Miller went out of the room while the paying of the money was going on; he saw no box in the room—Mr Haylar, in his address to the jury, remarked strongly upon the facts that, while prisoner was a hard-working tailor of twenty-years standing in the Colony, the prosecutrix was a woman living away from her husband—being in fact, what was generally known as, a "soiled dove." The learned counsel then contended that the prisoner in question had made a false, though minute, statement from beginning to end.

His Lordship, this morning, summed up at length. He thought that was a matter for the jury to consider whether, as it was assumed and not contradicted that Mrs Miller had been guilty of a breach of one of the cardinal laws contained in the book upon which she was sworn, she might not have likewise been guilty of breaking another law. His Lordship said: "I am not going to say that the probability of many points of Mrs M's statement, and this leaving for the jury's consideration, many points as to probabilities, upon which chiefly rested the verdict in the case. If the jury entirely believed Mrs M's statement, then a very strong presumption of guilt existed against the prisoner; but if the jury believed that Mrs M. had not been the witness of truth in any one particular, then how could they believe her statement in any one part. Now, one strong point, could the jury believe that Mrs M. did not remember from whom she got that \$100 note? It is not the convenient for her to say from whom she got it; but did the jury believe that she had forgotten all about it. The point of the conflicting statements of the shroff and Mrs M., as to whether or not a box was in the room at all, was also remarked upon by the Judge. Those witnesses—Messrs Lammer, Boyer, and W. Bonnet—called as to the good character of the prisoner, his Lordship remarked were useless, if the jury thought the case one of certainty against the prisoner. If they did not, then the matter of character affected the case as to the prisoner in the same way as the character given of Mrs Miller would affect her statement, and the reliance to be placed upon it.

The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, unanimously; and his Lordship added that he believed the prisoner to be not only not guilty, but innocent. The prisoner was thereupon discharged, his Lordship expressing a hope that he would continue to maintain the good character which had been his stand-by on the present occasion.

The Sessions were then adjourned until Tuesday next (23rd), at ten o'clock.

SELF PRAISE.—A distinguished actress was lately introduced to a lawyer in New Orleans, who was not at all backward in sounding his own praise. "He is a very smart man," an acquaintance remarked soon afterwards. "I know it," she replied, "he told me so himself."

METHOD IN HIS MADNESS.—A madman in Bedlam was asked how he came there? He answered, "By a dispute." "What dispute?" The Bedlamite replied, "The world said I was mad; I said the world was mad, and they outwitted me."

AT DEPEPE, in France, the following notice has been issued by the police:—"The police are requested, when a lady is in danger of drowning, to seize her by the dress, and not by the hair, which often remains in the grasp."

HINTS TO BRANDY-DRINKERS.—A story is going the rounds of a party of ladies, who were caught in a shower, having the colour washed from their cheeks. A lady at one elbow, thinks the colour of the gentlemen's noses would not be washed out without a waterspout.—*American Paper.*

A man who feathered his nest is supposed to have been a dealer in poultry. "Mr. TITMOUTH," said a learned lady, who had been showing off her wit at the expense of a dangle, "if you remember me a bargainer that is filled with nothing in the upper story." "Divine Almir," meekly replied her adorer, "in thanking you for the compliment, let me remind you that you occupy my upper story exclusively."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE TEA TRADE.

(Produce Circular, Jan. 17.)

A more general disposition on the part of merchants to accept reasonable offers has led to a resumption of business on a large scale. The retail dealers generally hold light stocks, and the large clearance which have taken place from the commencement of the year, have been, to a great extent, drawn from recent purchases. The demand still very largely runs on Tea for a low-priced canister, and the market is abundantly stocked with this class; there is, however, a striking difference in the value of a good deal of Tea sold at the same price. We have seen several parcels which have been sold at 1s. 1d. and 1s. 1 1/2d., equal to Tea which has sold within a day or two at 1d. and 1 1/2d. more money; this, however, simply marks the difference between a weak and a strong holder, the former being often compelled to sell, even when he has to do so at prices quite disproportionate to the value of his goods. In the long run, with a market like the present, and with consumption still tending towards lower prices, we are not sure that the policy or necessity of the weak holder is not an advantage. It is certain that very many thousands of chests of Tea, now nominally worth 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d., will eventually realise not more than 1s. or 1s. 1 1/2d., perhaps even less, and this may take place without any notable fall in the market, deterioration of quality, and the disavowal with which Teas that have been long imported are regarded, are sufficient reasons. It is painful to reflect that the greater portion of these Teas cost a high price in China, where they were regarded as of good medium quality. Those who are best acquainted with the doings of buyers in that remote region are sanguine enough to believe that matters have arrived at their worst stage, and that we may consequently look for a change, with much necessity, be an improvement. We have always held that it is most unfair to saddle the buyer with the whole of the blame; there is no doubt that an immense deal of reckless buying did take place, but the instructions and accounts of our market and its future prospects, which were sent out from here, must also have proved misleading to an extraordinary degree, especially when backed by enormous credits. We are told, however, that those who have caused much mischief this year are not the regular China houses, but outsiders not living in London, and it would certainly seem that the supply of foolish speculators of Teas is not to be reckoned among the least of the madder the proceedings on the merchants' parts appear to become. A more general system of giving the consignee here a direct pecuniary interest in the success or failure of the shipments, would probably lead to better results.

MR. EDWARDS AND OVEREND, GURNEY & CO. (Times, January 26.)

The prosecution of the directors of Overend, Gurney & Co. has already produced some remarkable disclosures. We confine ourselves to the innocent task of putting into a connected form some facts which have been detailed by one of the witnesses, Edward Watkin Edwards.

Mr Edwards is an official assignee in the Court of Bankruptcy, in which capacity, of course, he receives a salary, and has official duties which, as it seems by his account, are supposed to keep him at his office until four o'clock in the day. It is obvious, moreover, that in such a post he must possess considerable and peculiar sources of information with respect to the state of business in the city. A large firm has many ramifications, and a single bankruptcy may reveal much and suggest a great deal more. When this gentleman was called, one of the counsel for the defendants was unable to see what his statements could have to do with the inquiry. He was speedily enlightened. Mr Edwards proceeded to state that from the year 1869 to 1864 he had been in receipt of £5,000 a year from the old firm of Overend, Gurney & Co. He was first introduced to the firm by Mr. David Ward Chapman, at that time a leading partner in the firm. A letter was produced, written by Mr Chapman in 1862, engaging to pay him £5,000 a year from 1863 to 1868, "in consideration of his agreeing to act for the firm in all matters in which they might ask for his advice and assistance." This agreement was suddenly terminated in 1864. Mr Birkbeck, one of the partners, told Mr Edwards in rather strong language that he had been the cause of some of their heavy losses, and demanded the £20,000 promised in the agreement for services rendered during 1864, and to be rendered during the three ensuing years. He therefore received £15,000 for doing no work at all, and, in addition to this compensation for being relieved of so onerous a task, he was furnished with a handsome testimonial, stating that he ceased to act for the firm simply because they had declined the sort of business for which his services had been engaged, and acknowledging his assistance and disinterestedness. It is difficult to get at all the facts, for Mr Edwards has "a very bad memory as to dates," it is apt to "entirely fail" him on other matters, and "he does not like to swear positively at all to anything."

But what were the services Mr Edwards rendered the firm for this large salary of £5,000 to be earned, as he tells us, for the most part after office hours? This is the point on which his memory is chiefly defective, but he finds it extremely difficult to remember precisely what were the transactions he undertook in consideration of it. He appears, however, to have been consulted by the firm with respect to the solvency of persons who might make application to them for assistance. But, putting aside his position of official assignee, which, of course, could not be used for purposes of private information, how was Mr Edwards qualified to give this advice? A few instances, which were with difficulty elicited, show sufficient light upon the rest of Mr Edwards' engagements. The Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Company was largely indebted to Overend & Gurney. He went into that company as a director, Overend & Gurney giving him the necessary shares. He attended all the board meetings—not after office hours—and received the usual fees. Of course he knew of the large debt to the Gurneys, and, in fact, "he went there to watch it." Again, he was the nominee of Overend & Gurney in the transaction of a loan for £144,000 to Mr. Stefano Xenos, the manager of a fleet of ships known as the "Greek and Oriental Company." This transaction turned out very ill, but not for Mr Edwards. At some time or other—his memory fails him about dates—he was receiving a salary at the rate of £500 a year from Mr Xenos, and he was,

moreover, presented by that gentleman with a yacht, "not for services rendered, but as a friendly gift." He does not seem to have been always quite so scrupulous. He negotiated on behalf of Messrs Overend & Gurney the sale of two ships to a Mr Pearson, and on that occasion he received a sum of £2,000 from Mr Pearson. In other words, he was receiving £5,000 a year from Overend & Gurney in consideration of his making good bargains for them, and he received at the same time £2,000 from one of their customers for making a good bargain for him. It is rarely that men possess such a faculty for obliging two parties at once. Then, again, he was umpire in the affair of Lascari & Lever, both of whom were indebted to Overend & Gurney; and he had, of course, a *douceur* of £300 for his services. "His impression is" that he never received anything in addition either from Mr. Lascari or Mr. Lever, but he "will not swear that he did not," and he "might have had something and forgotten it."

Mr Edwards must be singularly open to contributions on all sorts of occasions if they are so readily forgotten. One of the transactions in which he was concerned on behalf of the old firm was with the Millwall Ironworks, of which Mr C. J. Mars was formerly the owner, and he "will not swear that he did not receive money in connection with them," but his "memory is an entire blank on the subject." It must be allowed, indeed, that his engagements were perplexing. In addition to all this, he was the sleeping partner in a firm called Edwards & O'Brien. Two of his brothers and Mr. O'Brien were the acting partners, and Mr. O'Brien obtained advances from Overend & Gurney after he had left them. A Mr. O'Brien, moreover, appears as the manager of the Millwall Ironworks.

This will probably be thought sufficient. It is easy to imagine Mr Edwards overwhelmed with his responsibilities. He is an official assignee; he is in business on his own account; he is in business on account of Overend & Gurney's customers. He receives his official salary of £5,000 from Overend & Gurney, and thousands, and his friendly gifts of such little matters as a yacht, and he has an income, no doubt, from his own business. But there is more to come still, and that, perhaps, the most surprising part of the whole matter. We have seen that Mr Chapman introduced him to the firm of Overend & Gurney. He now states that, in the first instance, he lent privately to Mr Chapman the whole of the salary he received from the firm. He paid over to Mr Chapman the first £5,000 he received, and he was under the impression that the transaction was to be kept secret. He adds that he has never been repaid. So that to all his other business he added that of a money-lender. We say nothing about this affair so far as it concerns Mr Chapman. It is sufficient to observe and to admire the spectacle afforded by Mr Edwards. He is engaged in transactions with firm, with a single partner of the firm, with the customers of the firm, and with his own customers; and all these transactions are of course his duty to keep perfectly disinterested, and to prevent their exerting any influence on each other. And all this is undertaken by a gentleman who has "a very bad memory as to dates," and finds it hard to recall amounts which are reckoned in hundreds of thousands? We can form, of course, no idea of the influence which Mr Edwards' incoherence may have exercised on the fortunes of Overend & Gurney; but he has given us an extraordinary revelation of the underground and unseen workings of the City, and of the extent to which one quiet man may make use of great names for his own purposes, and without compromising himself.

PUBLIC READINGS.

The system of giving "public readings" seems likely to obtain a place of some permanency in our list of entertainments. Every town, almost every parish in the Kingdom, enjoys now a winter season of so-called "penny readings," and the popularity of these performances is indisputable. We may be entitled therefore to look for general improvement in "the art of reading aloud."

Dr Quincey maintained that no accomplished reader was more rare, although he had himself self-fairly mastered its difficulties. "If I had any vanity," he writes, "at all connected with any endowment or attainment of mine, it was with this." Neither Coleridge nor Southey he found to be good readers of verse. They both read as if crying, or at least wailing lugubriously. John Kemble was not effective as a reader, while his great sister, "the immortal Siddons," was even less satisfactory. In her readings from "Paradise Lost," Dr Quincey considered her failure to be distressing. Indeed, he held that actors were the worst readers of all, while people in general were apt to read poetry either without any passion at all or to overstep the modesty of nature.

Actors, no doubt, have a difficulty in emancipating themselves from habit, and clearly distinguishing between reading and acting; gestulation and attitude become so much a part of their natural and ordinary demeanour. Yet a really capable player will be found skilled in self-command and thoroughly appreciative of the advantages to be gained by repose of manner. Indeed, so far as recent experience enables one to judge, actors are often less theatrical in their readings than the readers who are unconnected with the stage. Much of Mr Dickens' reading is really acting; sometimes even acting of a melodramatic kind, while Mr Bellamy occasionally indulges in movements more suited to the circus than the desk, as, for instance, when he undergoes much physical exercise and contortion in order to bring thoroughly home to his audience the troubles of John Gilpin's ride.

Certainly Mrs Panny Kemble charmed her hearers by less violent means, appealed more to their sense of sound than of sight; and Mrs Siddons must have been in some way with difficulty elicited, show sufficient light upon the rest of Mr Edwards' engagements. The Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Company was largely indebted to Overend & Gurney. He went into that company as a director, Overend & Gurney giving him the necessary shares. He attended all the board meetings—not after office hours—and received the usual fees. Of course he knew of the large debt to the Gurneys, and, in fact, "he went there to watch it." Again, he was the nominee of Overend & Gurney in the transaction of a loan for £144,000 to Mr. Stefano Xenos, the manager of a fleet of ships known as the "Greek and Oriental Company."

F.—MARCH 19

Intimations.

NOTICE.

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The "China Mail" Office,
2, Wyndham Street, Hongkong.

NOTIFICATION

THE TEA TRADE AT CANTON

THE following Notification has been issued by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Canton:—

Notification
No. 2.

BRITISH CONSULATE
CANTON, February 26.

Representations having been made to undersigned with reference to the difficulties experienced in obtaining the fulfilment of contracts through the failure of the Teamen and Brokers to supply Tea bulk according to the muster upon which they were purchased, he brought the matter, in conjunction with the Consul for the United States, before the Chinese authorities.

ues, with a view to devising some mod-
which the evil complained of might be
tified. It is obvious that the remedy
to a great extent in the hands of the pur-
chasers themselves, by the refusal of
Teas if they were inferior to the sam-
ple, but difficulties interpose in following the
course, such as Tonnage having been
engaged, advices having gone forward,
others unnecessary to mention. Moreover
as the rejection of a chop was little like-
ly to cause loss or damage to the Thames

ing to market fluctuations, no unwillingness was felt on his part to such a result. In fact, it was an encouragement to resolute practices. The undersigned was the more of opinion that compelling the fulfilment of contracts or enforcing what termed an "equitable cut," for inferior quality, were necessary measures, if trade was to be conducted on anything like a sound basis; he therefore directed his attention to devising a mode of arbitration

proceeding by means of which the expense and delay of a Chinese court of law might be avoided. It is not worth while to detail the particulars of the proposition he made, as, after long negotiations, it was rejected by the Tea guild, who met it by a counter proposition that if Tea when delivered was not equal to muster, it should be rejected. Seeing that no amicable arrangement could be arrived at, the undersigned, in conjunction with the Consul for the United States, requested the Chinese authorities to

the utmost rigour of the law would be enforced in all cases of fraudulent practices and he hopes that the Proclamation which has been issued accordingly, a copy of the translation of which is annexed, will have the effect intended, by shewing the part against whom it is directed that they will not escape with impunity from the consequences of their misdeeds.

(Signed) D. B. ROBERTSON,
Consul.

Proclamation by CHEN, Magistrate of the
Nanhai District, and YANG, Magistrate
of the P'wangyu District :—

We have received instructions from His
Honour the Financial Commissioner, embodying
orders from his Excellency the Viceroy in
tenor as follow :—

"The Viceroy received a communication
on the 20th August last from the British
Consul Mr. Robertson, to the effect that

has been addressed by the British merchants at Canton with reference to the great loss and detriment to their trade caused by the inferior qualities of the Teas supplied by the Teamen, notwithstanding their contracts to deliver Teas according to muster. The practice appears to be that the Teas brokers take round samples of Teas, and the merchants after inspecting and tasting their qualities and arranging for the price to be paid for the chop, with the weight in

pients and the time of delivery, engage for
mage by vessels proceeding to England
and when the Teas agreed for arrival in
Canton, they are found on inspection to be
not only far inferior in quality to the sam-
ple supplied, but largely mixed with what
are called 'lie-teas,' or leaves of plants of
all kinds prepared to imitate the genuine
tea. This has now become the regular
practice, and it is necessary that some mea-
sures should be taken to put an end to the
frauds which are thus perpetrated. H

therefore urges that measures be devised with this end in view, etc., etc. The U. S. Consul, Mr King, has also made a similar representation. On receipt of the foregoing the Viceroy ordains that a notification be issued to the Tea dealers with injunctions to be laid upon them for their obedience." The Magistrates being in receipt of the above instructions, have to issue a notification in pursuance of their tenor; and we do therefore accordingly proclaim for the

instruction of all members of the Tea Trade, that it is an obvious duty to make honesty and good faith the guiding principles of commerce with foreign merchants, and that to cherish fraudulent designs can in no wise be permitted. They should, moreover, bear in mind that the bulk of the Tea export has been confined of late years to the ports of Fukien, whilst the local trade in Canton teas itself has at the same time languished in an unusual degree. If fraudulent practices in the export of tea have

be further persisted in, not only will those guilty of such acts be liable to prosecution and thus incur the danger of arrest and of actions for compensation, but the trade itself will continue to fall off daily, and the possibility of gain to the trader will be still more remote. It is not difficult to perceive on which side the real interest of the dealer actually lies. After the issue of this Notification, if the traders referred to fail to amend their ways, and still continue

indulging in fraudulent practices, on complaint being lodged by foreign merchants, they shall not only be required to make compensation, but shall further be visited with severe punishment, under the statute for assimilating the offences of obtaining money under false pretences with the crime of robbery. Be ye careful, therefore, not to disobey, and thus to involve yourselves in trouble. Let all tremblingly obey. A special Proclamation.

Dated Edinburgh, 4th 1800.

Dated February 22nd, 1863.
 Translated by
 WM. FRED. MAYERS.
 Printed and Published by CHARLES ABRAHAM
 SAINT, Proprietor, at No. 2, Wyndham
 Street, Victoria, Hongkong.

also, to New York, Liverpool
and St. Nazaire, France.
Freight to United States
in American Gold Coin with
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prietors, GEO. F. BOWEN &
Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong, February 16,

Printed & Published by CHARLES ABRAHAM
SAINT, Proprietor, at No. 2, Wyndham
Street, Victoria, Hongkong.

